



News Release

March 19, 2012

PRESCRIBED BURNS PLANNED AT PECOS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Superintendent Dennis L. Carruth announced today that Pecos National Historical Park plans to continue implementation of a fuels treatment program on park lands initially begun during the summer of 2005. The program is designed to reduce hazardous fuel levels and to restore and maintain historic pasture lands. As part of this program, up to 900 acres of land will be scheduled for prescribed burning on the south and central portions of the park.

Initial treatment of the area was completed during the summers of 2005 and 2008 and consisted of removing trees from historic pasture lands. Now that a basic grass cover has been established, initial prescribed burning will remove wood products remaining from those treatments. Occasional burns in the future will discourage tree growth, help to maintain healthy pasture grass lands and open views that existed on the land when it was used as a ranch. By reestablishing and maintaining the pastures, the park will reduce the amount of fuels available to wildfire, create “buffer zones” that will help firefighters control fires that do start, and decrease the chance that a wildfire could move across the park’s boundary.

“The program, as outlined in the Park’s Fire Management Plan, will help to protect our natural and cultural resources from wildfire and restore the historic landscape” said Superintendent Carruth.

The planned burn area is located in the main unit of the park south of Pecos, NM. Projected burn units are located adjacent to, and north of, the southern park boundary near the village of Rowe. Burning could be initiated anytime between March 25 and May 15, 2012 as weather and fuel conditions warrant and should take approximately 2-5 days to complete. Extensive plans have been developed that will guide the strategic placement of fire personnel and engines based on weather and expected fire behavior. The burn is designed so that most of the smoke will move away from populated areas.

For further information, please call Chief Park Ranger Daniel Jacobs at 505-757-7235

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